CUMORAH'S SOUTHERN MESSENGER

Vol. 29 DECEMBER 1954 No. 12

Merry Christmas

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper

THE MISSION PRESIDENCY

Merry Christmas

To all the Saints and friends of the Church throughout South Africa, we send our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a hope that the year 1955 will be satisfactory, successful and joyous. We commend you for your faithfulness; it is a privilege to be associated with you in the work of our Master. Your unselfish response to duty, your generous contribution of time, ability, and means have been an influence and power for good to advance the work of the Lord.

In reviewing the happenings of the past year we realize the Latter-day Saints in the South African Mission have been wonderfully blessed. The memorable visit of President and Sister McKay proved to be the greatest event in the history of our century old mission. The charming personalities of this wonderful couple and their example of love and devotion to each other was an inspiration to everyone. Timely words of counsel and admonition spoken by our beloved leader, gave the saints greater faith, courage, strength, and determination to live the principles of the restored gospel.

Through the united effort and generous contributions of the members of the Springs Branch; the response of the members throughout the mission to the appeal to support the mission building fund, and the full co-operation and assistance of the General Authorities of the Church a beautiful modern Chapel with recreation hall and adequate class rooms was built at Springs. The dedication service held on July 11th was another important event in the history of the mission.

During the year property has been purchased in Durban and Port Elizabeth and permission granted to erect chapels on these sites. It is expected construction will commence on these places of worship during the coming year, in addition to a large modern chapel with a recreation hall and ample class room facilities in Johannesburg.

The loyalty of the members to the ideals and teachings of the Master has also been evidenced in many other ways: by large increase of membership; great number of brethren being ordained to the priesthood; increase in tithes and offerings; increased attendance at Sacrament, Priesthood and the auxilliary meetings of the Church.

Yes, our Heavenly Father has blessed your efforts. To show our appreciation let us be more generous than ever with our good deeds, more tolerant to our brothers and sisters, have more sympathy for those in sorrow and distress, greater compassion for those that have sinned. In other words let love always be in your hearts.

May the Lord bless you, members of the church in South Africa, together with the loyal missionaries, and our many friends for their kindness. May peace be in your hearts always.

—President Leroy H. Duncan

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Cumorah's Southern Messenger

DECEMBER 1954

Editor: Leroy H. Duncan.
Assoc. Editor: Lynn P. Walker.

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COVER PICTURE

Star of Bethlehem

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MORMON QUINTET WINS AT FRANKFURT, GERMANY: Five L.D.S. Servicemen of the Kaiserlautern L.D.S. Servicemen's Group won the Soldier Singing Contest conducted at Kaiserlautern by the Rheinlander Special Services Group. The local singing contest was part of the second All-Army Singing Contest sponsored by the Special Services Branch of the Armed Services.

The quintet will participate in the WACom preliminaries at Bad Kreuznach. Winners of this contest will go to the USAREUR finals in Heidelberg. The All-Army Grand Final will be decided in January, 1955, from tape recordings in Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Their presentations included "Riding Down the Canyon" and their own special arrangement of the L.D.S. Hymn "See the Mighty Angel Flying." Judging was based on tone, accuracy and pitch, expression, selection of music and style.

Acording to Kenneth B. Dyer, president of the West German Mission, the Kaiserlautern Servicemen's Group is one of 35 organized servicemen's groups in the mission.

WAIKIKI WARD PRIMARY PROVIDES RAGS FOR RUG: Children of the Waikiki Ward Primary, Oahu Stake, Honolulu furnished the rags which were woven into 48 feet of rugs for the baptismal room of the Hawaiian Temple.

Each child brought at least one ball of rags, some brought as many as four or more. Four rugs were woven, one measuring 22 feet, another 12 feet and two 14 feet each. Weaving was done by Mrs. Sakoki, a non-member, in the workshop for the blind and supervised by the Extension Division of the University of Hawaii.

Mrs. Ruth P. Smith, Primary president, reports the children and leaders of the ward learned of the need for the rugs when 20 children were in the temple for baptism last spring. The temple presidency gave the children in the Primary a "bonus" by allowing 20 other children to enter the temple in June making 40 who have been baptized for the dead.

BASKETBALL ASSUAGES OPPOSITION IN BRAZIL: Nine Mormon Elders recently invaded Sao Paulo, Brazil, a city of 35,000 people.

After the surprised populace had gotten its breath, the "opposition" began its counter-attack. One influential pastor was brought in from another area to "Poison" the minds of all, including the little children in the schools, against the Mormons.

> Religion presents few difficulties to the humble; many to the proud; insuperable ones to the vain.
> —Hare.

Two months later, the basketball club of Jau invited the elders to play the local team, previously unbeaten.

The Elders won the game, 35—34. They not only won the game, but the hearts of the entire audience.

The rematch requested by the local team saw the Elders win by an even wider margin, 35—19.

Since then, reports Asael T. Sorensen, mission president, opposition and prejudice have diminished. He also writes that three baptisms preceded the last game and four more are expected to be completed in the near future

AT THIS CHRISTMASTIDE

FROM THE IMPROVEMENT ERA

By President David O. McKay

At this Christmastide, I would cite a few words from one of the strongest testimonies to the divinity of the mission of Jesus the Christ that we have in sacred literature:

Peter and John had the previous day passed by a lame man who had sat at the temple from his youth and who sought alms from those who went into the temple to worship. You remember that Peter answered his pleadings by saying: "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.:" (Acts 3:6).

Later, as these Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ were bearing testimony of his divinity in Solomon's Court, they were arrested and put in hold until the next day when they were brought before the council; and as they stood before their accusers, this is what Peter said:

"If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

"Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

"This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Ibid,. 4:9-12).

That is my testimony to Israel and to the world today: ". . . there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." And to-day it is our duty to preach Christ and him crucified and to declare to all the world that he is indeed the chief cornerstone, that through him, and by him, and only by obedience to his principles, can we have that peace, happiness, contentment, and prosperity in the world for which we are all longing and praying.

The mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is to prepare the way for the final establishment of the kingdom of God on earth. The living Christ is its head. The gospel is our anchor The principles of the gospel are the surest, safest guide to mortal man. Christ is the light to humanity. In that light man sees his way clearly. When the light is rejected, no group, no nation can achieve true success without following him.

At this Christmastide I leave this witness with you: That there is only one name given under heaven whereby the principles of righteousness, of peace, of contentment, of eternal life can be established among men, and that name is Jesus the Christ, the Redeemer of the world. I know the world must accept him. They must sooner or later bow before him as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

May God help us to be true to him, help us to bear testimony to the world by our acts, by gentleness, charity, love, by service to one another and to the world, that we know that he has revealed to men in this dispensation the truth that God lives, that his Son is the Redeemer of the world and that the gospel is the eternal plan of salvation.

May each Christmas find the members of the Church truer, purer, and nobler than the last, that they with minds and hearts united may hasten the day when "the Lord will bless his people with peace," (Ps. 29:11) and they may "lift up an ensign of peace, and make a proclamation of peace unto the ends of the earth." (D. and C. 105:39).

May God's peace abide in your hearts and in the hearts of people everywhere as they draw near to him in prayer, supplication, humility, and praise at this Christmastide.

A STALWART MEMBER

OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN MISSION

Sister Georgina S. Spear was born on July 27th, 1897, on a beautiful farm in the Lydenburg district of the Transvaal. Unforunately her father died when she was but two days old, so during her childhood she learned to work hard at a very tender age. All four of the Miller children of whom she was the youngest, worked hard to help mother. At the age of eighteen she married Brother Frederick John Spear. Her happiness with Brother Spear made up for all the fun she missed in her childhood.

Brother and Sister C. B. Spear and family of Bloemfontein were baptized on the first day that "Ramah" was used for meetings. The Johannesburg Spears attended as rather skeptical visitors. This was about in the year 1923.

In 1927 the elders started tracting the area in which the Spears lived and meeting the family began to visit them regularly. Elder Leroy H. Duncan brought the mission President, Samuel Martin, to meet the Spears. They accepted the Gospel, but Sister Spear was an inveterate tea drinker, and she told the Elders that when they visited her house and didn't see her tea tin on the shelf in the kitchen, she would be ready for baptism. It took two years. Brother and Sister Spear and their two children were baptized on a cold June day in 1929. The water was specially warmed for the service.

In 1930 the Spears were transferred to Premier Mine, where they continued to live their religion and Sister Spear had her own Relief Society, of which she was the sole member. Five years later they returned to Johannesburg where Sister Spear became Primary Mother in the Liahona Branch. She also worked hard in the Relief Society.

In 1943 the Spears migrated to Northern Rhodesia. Once more this family took their religion with them and Brother and Sister Spear with their fine strong testimonies of the Gospel held meetings in the family for many years. In April, 1950, a branch was organized in Luanshya with Brother Spear as president. Sister Spear was appointed Relief Society President, which position she still ably fills.

In 1950 the Spears lost Yvonne, a lovely, good girl of eighteen years. This was a dreadful blow. Brother Spear, being the only elder in Northern Rhodesia at this time had to conduct the funeral himself. This service made

GEORGINA G. SPEAR

a very strong impression on many of the people who later joined the branch.

The terrible heartache was hardly alleviated with the death of Brother Frederick J. Spear, who was called away in 1952. After losing her valiant partner it took greater effort and courage for Sister Spear to carry on, but however heavy her heart she is always cheerful and sweet.

Since her husband's death she has supervised the building of a large house, in which she and Brother Spear had planned to live when he retired. Sister Spear and Vernon, her youngest child, live there now.

At the beginning of this year when President David O. McKay visited South Africa Sister Spear, accompanied by her son Vernon, drove her car about 1400 miles through some of the wildest game country, in order to hear the prophet speak.

All who know Sister Spear, know her as a cheerful soul who is always inviting everyone to share her excellent meals. She is an inspiration to the Relief Society sisters and her Sunday School class. Her greatest possession in this life is her testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It has always been there to help her when the joys were interspersed with tears.

Sister Spear loves life, and has shown by her life that she loves the Gospel and the truths which it stands for. Her power and desire to teach others is evident by her works as she goes from day to day performing her various duties. The association that individuals ex-

(Continued on page 187)

SON OF GOD

FROM THE DESERET NEWS

During this Christmas season the hearts of faithful Latter-day Saints will be centred upon Jesus Christ and Joseph Smith.

December 25th is the traditionally accepted anniversary of the birth of the Son of God into the world. December 23, 1805, is the actual birthday of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

We worship Christ as the literal Son of God. We honour Joseph Smith because he revealed Christ and his laws to the world in this day.

Without Christ there would be no salvation. Without prophets to reveal the laws of salvation men would not be able to live so as to gain this rich reward.

"And moreover, I say unto you," an angel proclaimed to King Benjamin, "That there shall be no other name given nor any other way nor means whereby salvation can come unto the children of men, only in and through the name of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent.

". . . Salvation was, and is, and is to come, in and through the atoning blood of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent."

Christ is the absolute centre of all things, "the Apostle and High Priest of our profession," the Messiah, the Only Begotten, the very Son of God. He came into the world to save us from the physical and spiritual death brought to us by the fall.

His atoning sacrifice redeems all men from the grave. The resurrection is a free gift. Death is the natural inheritance of all men through Adam. Immortality is the free gift of the Son to all men.

His atoning sacrifice offers to all men eternal or spiritual life, that is life in the presence of the Father and the Son. This eternal life, this salvation must be earned by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel. It is far greater than the gift of a resurrection, great as that gift is.

Without a knowledge of the laws pertaining to eternal life men could not gain the highest of all goals. Hence revelation, hence prophets, hence the gifts of the Spirit, hence the sending of Joseph Smith to open this final dispensation.

Joseph Smith revealed the nature and kind of being that Christ is. He gave again on earth those laws that make up the fullness of the gospel of Christ. He was the greatest witness of Christ, the chiefest revealer of the doctrines of salvation that there has been in the world since Christ himself did those very things.

Christ and his laws have been taught in every dispensation. Always the testimony has been the same. Always it has been the same plan of salvation. There has never been a change in an eternal law. Men have accepted such portions of the law as they have been able to live, but the saving truths have never varied.

And always this knowledge has come to men through prophets, chosen vessels, men qualified by spiritual endowment to commune with God and pull down the blessings of heaven for themselves and their fellowmen.

Adam taught the knowledge of Christ to his children. Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and all the prophets were witnesses of him. Indeed, the very nature of the prophetic call is to stand as a witness of Christ and the laws of salvation which are in Christ.

Joseph Smith is the prophet, appointed from eternity, to head this dispensation and reveal to the world, for the last time, the knowledge of Christ and salvation.

Prophets are great proportionately as they testify of Christ and reveal his laws. Hence this inspired statement of Joseph Smith's position in the eternal scheme of things:

"Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other men that ever lived in it."

Should not the hearts of the Latter-day Saints be turned to these at this season, and at all seasons?

NO CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

By Alta Higbee Jacobsen

"They never get anything for Christmas," Great Aunt Martha said. "I don't see how John can be so stingy with his family."

"But on their birthdays" Great Aunt Alice mused; "on their birthdays they get such wonderful gifts. I wonder why it is? Do you think it's because they have no Christmas spirit? Even the children do not give gifts to one another. It's very strange indeed."

"And when you say anything to them about it they all shut up just like clams," Great Aunt Martha added, "that is, all but the littlest one. And my! how her eyes light up and shine when you mention Christmas presents. You'd actually think she was happy over Christmas, even without presents."

"There's something queer goes on in that house all right, and all these years since Clara died, too. I think we ought to speak to John about it. Let's go over there now."

The littlest one, who had entered through the front door in time to hear their conversation, slipped away quickly, unnoticed. She hurried home. It wouldn't do to let Great Aunt Martha and Great Aunt Alice get there before she did.

"Daddy!" she cried as she slammed the front door. "Daddy and Margie and Jim! Quick, hide the presents. Great aunts Martha and Alice are coming to see if we haven't the Christmas spirit.

"We can't let them find out!" big brother Jim exclaimed, grabbing an armload of half-wrapped gifts and heading for the stairs. "Margie, bring the paper! Dad, get the string!"

Minutes later, excited and breathless, they viewed the more orderly living room, void of any sign of presents. A gaily trimmed tree stood in the corner. Each grinned at the other, and the littlest one laughed with sheer delight.

"Now, remember." Dad said, "we mustn't let them know. The Saviour said we must not do our good deeds to be seen of men. They must not guess that each year we hunt up some needy family and give them a complete merry Christmas. On our birthdays we receive gifts, but Christmas is to celebrate the Saviour's birthday and so we give our gifts to him—by helping those in need. He has said, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.' And since we celebrate this as his birthday, we give our presents to him by helping those in need."

"That's right, Dadé" they all chorused just before the great-aunts came in.

"Now, John," Great Aunt Martha said with determination, "we want to know why you don't have the Christmas spirit in your home. We feel it's our duty to speak to you about it."

The great aunts looked at the silent faces before them, the heads erect, eyes shining, mouths tightly closed, and threw up their hands in despair.

"You know," Great Aunt Alice said as they were walking home, "I had more of a feeling of the Christmas spirit in that house than I have ever felt anywhere before."

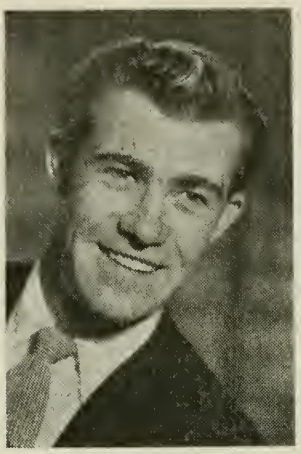
"It's very queer," Great Aunt Martha said, puzzled, "Very Queer."

A STALWART MEMBER

(Continued from page 185)

perience by knowing Sister Spear is one of happiness and good will because of her pleasing personality and her friendly attitude. Though Sister Spear has lived a long and eventful life, mixed with rich experiences of happiness and the sadness that comes with the passing of time and the knocks in life, she has not for a moment forgotten her responsibility to the Creator of us all.

DEPARTURES



ELDER EDDY

SISTER BLACKBURN

SISTER HUSKINSON

SISTERS RETA BLACKBURN and RUTH HUSKINSON and ELDER ELWOOD V. EDDY were honourably released from their missionary labours on November 26th, 1954 and sailed for home via West coast on the Stirling Castle. They embarked from Cape Town after a few days spent there visiting friends and members.

Sisters Blackburn and Huskinson were the first lady missionaries sent to this country from abroad to labour in the service of the Lord. They have worked diligently during their stay here beginning their work in the Cape District where they made many friends and contacts whom they converted to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In June 1954 they were transferred to Durban where the last part of their mission was fulfilled. May the blessings of the Lord be with these two sisters as they say good-bye to the land of South Africa and begin their voyage homeward.

Elder Eddy began his labours in the East London District after which he was transferred to Johannesburg and laboured in the northern suburbs. His next assignment took him to Rhodesia where he served as Branch and District President and Supervising Elder of the Salisbury Branch and District. He later was transferred to Bulawayo where he served in a similar capacity as in Salisbury and then finished his mission acting as Supervising Elder of the East Rand District while he was working in Springs. As Elder Eddy completes his mission here, the missionaries and members bid him farewell with the hope that he will have a successful voyage home.

ARRIVALS

GALEN E. JENSEN and SAMUEL P. ROBISON arrived aboard the "Stirling Castle" on November 11th, 1954. Elder Jensen comes from Richfield, Utah and Elder Robison comes from Midvale, Utah, U.S.A.

ERNEST D. HUBBARD and FARREL MONSON arrived aboard the "Carnarvon Castle" on November 26th, 1954. Elder Hubbard comes from Wellsville, Utah, U.S.A. and Elder Monson comes from Idaho Falls, Idaho, U.S.A.

STATISTICS

BLESSINGS

JEANETTE YVONNE VAN ANTWERPEN daughter of Daniel Johannes and Olive Mavis Anderson was blessed on August 13th, 1954, by Elder Donald Spencer at Port Elizabeth.

IRENE FOUCHE, daughter of James and Anna Sophia Hopley Seaward (Rautenbach) was blessed on August 19th, 1954, by President Leroy H. Duncan at Port Elizabeth.

RONALD DESMOND BRIAN SIEMS, son of Hennie and Florence Eva Smith was blessed on August 29th, 1954, by Brother Samuel J. Rayner at Epping Garden Village, Cape.

KEITH DE VILLIERS, son of Francois Jacobus and Dorothy Ann Smith was blessed on August 29th, 1954, by Brother John Wilson at Epping Garden Village, Cape.

ANTHENE STEVEN ROACH, son of Mathew and Julia Helen Fourie was blessed on September 5th, 1954, by Elder Donald Spencer at Port Elizabeth.

CHERYL ANN EVERTON, daughter of Patrick Cyril and Olive Myrtle Anna Scheckle was blessed on October 16th, 1954, by Brother John H. Everton at Port Elizabeth.

DENISE HILLARY KALLIS, daughter of Alexander Richard and Margaret Edith Pirie was blessed on October 10th, 1954, by Elder Richard M. Dunn at Epping Garden Village, Cape.

GLENN BELDON, son of William Charles Belt and Maria Naomi Barnard was blessed on October 17th, 1954, by Brother Sydney J. Spear at Bloemfontein.

BRENDON HOWARD BLAKE, son of Donald Lindsay and Joan Newton Frank was blessed on November 7th, 1954, by Elder Gene B. Welling at Ramah.

WARWICK LAYTON BLAKE, son of Donald Lindsay and Joan Newton Frank was blessed on November 7th, 1954, by Elder Earl Hutchins at Ramah.

RUSSELL BERWICK BLAKE, son of Donald Lindsay and Joan Newton Frank was blessed on November 7th, 1954, by Elder Earl Hutchins at Ramah.

BEVERLY JEANETTE BLAKE, daughter of Donald Lindsay and Joan Newton Frank was blessed on November 7th, 1954, by Elder Gene B. Welling at Ramah.

MICHAEL JAMES CALTEAUX, son of Norman James and Rose Helen Munnich was blessed on November 7th, 1954, by President Leroy H. Duncan at Kitwe.

LORRAINE MAVIS DE JAGER, daughter of Sidney John and Mavis Cornelia Bright was blessed on November 21st, 1954, by Elder Gary D. Forbush at Mowbray.

ALAN SIDNEY DE JAGER, son of Sidney John and Mavis Cornelia Bright was blessed on November 21st, 1954, by Elder Gerald Henderson at Mowbray.

BAPTISMS

ELSE KARIN RANDALL, daughter of Walter Powrie and Lotte Karin Susanna Grunert was baptised on October 23rd, 1954, by Walter P. Randall and confirmed on October 24th, 1954, by Elder George B. Everton at Durban.

DAWN PATRICIA RHYNES, daughter of Douglas and Olive Natalie Clouston was baptised on November 23rd, 1954, by Elder George B. Everton and confirmed on October 24th, 1954, by Elder Charles M. Sessions at Durban.

AVRIL MAUREEN RHYNES, daughter of Douglas and Olive Natalie Clouston was baptised on October 23rd, 1954, by Elder George B. Everton and confirmed on October 24th, 1954, by Elder Ruel C. Hyer at Durban.

CORNELIA MAGARETHA BOTHA, daughter of Willem Cornelius and Cornelia Magaretha Rossouw was baptised on October 24th, 1954, by Elder Garn G. Christensen and confirmed on the same day by Elder Orville C. Grigor at Benoni.

DONALD LINDSAY BLAKE was baptised on October 24th, 1954, by Elder Earl Hutchins and confirmed on the same day by Elder Glen Osborne at Ramah.

JOAN NEWTON (FRANK) BLAKE was baptised on October 24th, 1954, by Elder Glen Osborne and confirmed on the same day by Elder Earl Hutchins at Ramah.

GLADYS YVONNE (JOUBERT) CLOETE was baptised on October 24th, 1954, by Elder Farrell J. Thacker and confirmed on the same day by Elder Dean Lindsay at Ramah.

EILEEN ROSEMARY (FLETCHER) PATERSON was baptised on October 24th, 1954, by Elder Farrell J. Thacker and confirmed on the same day by Elder Clyde A. Miller at Ramah.

ELRENE LYNETTE PETERSEN, daughter of James William and Doris Winifred Cawker was baptised on October 24th, 1954, by Elder Farrell J. Thacker and confirmed on the same day by Elder Clyde A. Miller at Ramah.

DELINDA JUNE TAYLOR, daughter of Ronald Edwin and Gloria Kathleen Matthews was baptised on October 24th, 1954, by Brother Francis M. Donly and confirmed on the same day by Elder John Francis at Ramah.

EDITH MAY (WHITFIELD) DARKE was baptised on November 14th, 1954, by Elder Gary Elliott and confirmed on the same day by Elder Ivins T. Schmid at East London.

CLEMENT GERALD HUMAN was baptised on November 14th, 1954, by Elder Ronald P. Duncan and confirmed on the same day by Elder Gary E. Elliott at East London.

JEAN (BURNETT) HUMAN was baptised on November 14th, 1954, by Elder Gary E. Elliott and confirmed on the same day by Elder Curtis L. Tracy at East London.

DOUGLAS HENRY CHARSLEY, son of Douglas Edgar and Georgina Stanley Spear was baptised on November 7th ,1954, by Brother Douglas E. Charsley and confirmed on the same day by President Leroy H. Duncan at Luanshya.

STELLA LORRAINE RAUTENBACH was baptised on November 7th, 1954, by Elder James A. Bean and confirmed on the same day by Elder Donald Spencer at Port Elizabeth.

PETRUS GERHARDUS RAUTENBACH was baptised on November 7th, 1954, by Elder James A. Bean and confirmed on the same day by Elder Donald Spencer at Port Elizabeth.

JOHN LIONEL POULTNEY was baptised on November 21st, 1954, by Elder Jerald Johansen and confirmed on the same day by Elder Richard M. Dunn at Cumorah.

NEVILLE WINSTON CRAMER was baptised on November 21st, 1954, by Elder Jerald Johansen and confirmed on the same day by Brother Hugh Helm at Cumorah.

IRENE ELIZABETH (POULTNEY) CRAMER was baptised on November 21st, 1954, by Elder George Frederickson and confirmed on the same day by Brother Noel Storey at Cumorah.

MAUREEN CHARLEEN CRAWFORD was baptised on November 21st, 1954, by Elder George Frederickson and confirmed on the same day by Brother Nicholas J. Goosen at Cumorah.

JAMES PRINS was baptised on November 21st, 1954, by Elder Gerald Henderson and confirmed on the same day by Brother John T. Wilson at Cumorah.

ELIZABETH MURIEL PRINS was baptised on November 21st, 1954, by Elder Gary Forbusn and confirmed on the same day by Elder John Grismore at Cumorah.

GWENDOLINE ANN SMITH, daughter of Richard Warrington and Dorothy Gwendoline Ellen Villiers (Seager) was baptised on November 21st, 1954, by Elder Gary Forbush and confirmed on the same day by Brother Alvin F. Park at Cumorah.

MAVIS CORNELIA (BRIGHT) DE JAGER was baptised on November 21st, 1954, by Elder Gerald Henderson and confirmed on the same day by President Leroy H. Duncan at Cumorah.

THORA JOYCE (COXEN) CASTLEMAN was baptised on November 21st, 1954, and confirmed on the same day by Elder Garn G. Christensen at Benoni.

TREVOR CHARLTON, son of Thomas George and Adelaide Violet Gifford was baptised on November 21st, 1954, by Elder Garn G. Christensen and confirmed on the same day by Elder Rulon Fairbanks at Benoni.

JUDITH MARIA ALLETA JOHANNA (REYNECKE) TERBLANCHE was baptised on November 21st, 1954, by Elder Dean Lindsay and confirmed on the same day by Elder John Francis at Pretoria.

ORDINATIONS

JOHN HENRY WAGENER was ordained a Teacher in the Aaronic Priesthood on Otocber 24th, 1954, by Brother Johan Brummer at Ramah.

DON ROY NINOW was ordained a Teacher in the Aaronic Priesthood on October 24th, 1954, by Elder John Francis at Ramah.

GARNET ALVARA PHIPSON was ordained a Priest in the Aaronic Priesthood on October 24th, 1954, by Brother Norman G. Muir at Ramah.

EDWIN GERARD OXLEE was ordained a Deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood on October 24th, 1954, by Brother Francis Donly at Ramah.

MELVIN KENNETH MUIR was ordained a Priest in the Aaronic Priesthood on October 31st, 1954, by Brother Norman G. Muir at Ramah.

WALTER FEDERICK PERRY was ordained a Teacher in the Aaronic Priesthood on October 31st, 1954, by Brother Francis M. Donly at Ramah.

EDWARD WILLIAM SIDDONS ROGERS was ordained a Teacher in the Aaronic Priesthood on October 31st, 1954, by Brother Edward Tewson at Ramah.

CHRISTIAN HENDRICK LOUW was ordained a Teacher in the Aaronic Priesthood on November 7th, 1954, by Brother Johan P. Brummer at Ramah.

GEORGE TEXAS WASHBURN SMITH was ordained an Elder in the Melchizedek Priesthood on November 8th, 1954, by President Leroy H. Duncan at Ramah.

NORMAN IVAN MUIR was ordained an Elder in the Melchizedek Priesthood on November 8th, 1954, by Brother Norman G. Muir at Ramah.

RONALD THOMAS ROBBINS was ordained a Deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood on October 31st, 1954, by President Leroy H. Duncan at Bulawayo.

ROBERT GEORGE TARR was ordained a Deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood on October 31st, 1954, by Elder Therald P. Quayle at Bulawayo.

WILLIAM ALEXANDER JUBBER was ordained a Teacher in the Aaronic Priesthood on October 31st, 1954, by President Leroy H. Duncan at Bulawayo.

HENRY ALFRED FROST was ordained a Teacher in the Aaronic Priesthood on October 31st, 1954, by Elder Jerry S. Young at Bulawayo.

ALFRED JAMES CORRIGAN was ordained a Priest in the Aaronic Priesthood on November 10th, 1954, by Elder Gary E. Elliott at East London.

WILLEM ADRIAAN VAN DEVENTER was ordained a Deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood on November 7th, 1954, by President Leroy H. Duncan at Luanshya.

MARRIAGES

JAMES THOMAS LISTON was married to Mabel Ada Keogh Scott on August 9th, 1954, at Port Elizabeth.

DEATHS

LILLIAN PERRIN died on November 13, 1954, at Cape Town.

APPOINTMENTS

ELDER GARY D. FORBUSH was appointed Supervising Elder of the East Rand District on November 23rd, 1954.

TRANSFERS

ELDER GARY D. FORBUSH was transferred to Springs, West Rand District, from Cape District on November 21st, 1954 to labour with Elder Vern L. Halverson

ELDER JOSEPH T. LICHFIELD was transferred to the Cape District from the West Rand District on November 24th, 1954.

ELDER LORIN W. PICKETT was transferred to the West Rand District from the East Rand District on November 10th to labour with Henry S. Todd.

ELDER FRANK L. JENKINS was transferred to the East Rand District from the West Rand District on November 10th to labour with Orville C. Grigor.

District Highlights

EAST LONDON BRANCH

Branch President: Elder Gary E. Elliott, 4, Baynes Street, Berea, East London, C.P.

Reported by Theodora R. Booysen

On Saturday, the 30th October, we were invited to the lovely home of Brother and Sister Darke, where the Elders showed to us their latest pictures after which delicious refreshments were served. A small charge was made for the evening's entertainment and the proceeds were added to our Christmas Party Fund.

A fortnight later a large crowd gathered at the home of Brother and Sister Corrigan, where the Elders promised us we would celebrate Halloween in true American style. Nor were we disappointed. Upon arrival we were conducted singly through the "Chamber of Horrors" specially prepared for us with great care by the Elders and the Corrigans. We still cannot make up our minds which was the most frightening: Elder Elliott's white face, Elder Tracy's black one or Rita Corrigan's weird and realistic witches' get-up. A lot of frightening noises were made by Pat Corrigan, Elder Schmid and Elder Duncan (although the latter appeared to be in hysterics most of the time). We were made to shake hands with dead men, stick our fingers into soft, squashy, overripe tomatoes and all emerged with black crosses all over our white frightened faces, which, however, were washed off in a tub of water later on in the evening as we tried to beat each other at apple bobbing. The children participated in a fancy dress parade and Shenagh McCallum won the coveted first prize with Mackie and Peggy Alexander gaining the 2nd and 3rd prizes.

Sunday, the 13th November, was another day which will be long remembered by many of the East London Branch. Early in the morning friends and members gathered on the banks of the Nahoon river to witness the baptism of three of our earnest investigators. Elder Ronald Duncan baptised Brother Clem Human and Elder Gary Elliott baptised Sister Jean Human and Sister Edith Darke. Brother Krull gave a short but inspirational talk on the subject of baptism and it was with joy in our hearts that we welcomed our new members into the Church.

We were also pleased to welcome Sister Peggy Hertog to the East London Branch. Sister Hertog has recently returned from Holland.

We would like to take this opportunity of wishing President and Sister Duncan and family and all the members and friends of the South African Mission the compliments of the season, not forgetting Brother and Sister Evan P. Wright and family, who are often in our thoughts along with all other past Mission Presidents and missionaries. To the parents of Elders Elliott, Tracy, Schmid, and Duncan we extend our wish of a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We enjoy the association of these four Elders working in East London.

PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH

Branch President: Clarence Doller, 18, Caithness Road, Walmer, P.E.

Reported by Madge McHugh

Halloween was celebrated this year in the true old Scottish custom, ducking for

apples and treacle buns. Owing to the shortage of pumpkins, gem squashes and lemons were used to make funny masks, and Brother Ernest Doller and Sister Joy O'Connor received the prizes for the best faces.

We extend a hearty welcome to Sister Stella Rautenbach and Brother Peter Fouche who have become members of the Church. We hope they will enjoy their association with fellow members and those associated with the Gospel.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Sister Smith on the death of her daughter-in-law and hope she will find comfort in the teachings of the Gospel.

From the members of the Port Elizabeth Branch we extend greetings, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members and Missionaries and may the Lord bless you all.

PRETORIA BRANCH

Branch President: Lionel Bibb, 282 Preller Street, Muckleneuk, Pretoria, Tvl.

Reported by Sheila Bibb.

We are glad to have Sister Pat Harvey back after a fortnight's holiday in Cape Town.

Brother Ronnie Kunitz has gone to seek fresh fields in Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia. We hope he will be happy there but will also visit us occasionally.

The Sunday School attendance has been increased by six since the Hamilton family have moved into town. We are glad that they are now able to get out to all our meetings.

A welcome visitor during the month of November was Sister Lorraine Bibb of Cape Town. Unfortunately her holiday was rather dampened by the three Bibb boys coming down with chicken pox. We are happy to report though that they are all recovering.

Another member on the sick list this month was Michael Hamilton who is also much improved.

A Hobo dance was held on the 12th November in aid of the building Fund but due to the bad weather the outcome was a little disappointing. Those present had a wonderful time.

We are sorry to say good-bye to the Hamilton family who are leaving for Springs at the end of November but wish them happiness in their new home.

KRUGERSDORP BRANCH

Branch President: Derryck V. Vice, 82 Von Brandis Street ,Krugersdorp, Tvl.

Reported by Yvonne Cloete

Although belated, Krugersdorp extends a sincere welcome to Elder Miller and wishes Elder Young a pleasant sojourn in Bulawayo.

On the 23rd of October, Sister Eileen Patterson, Elrene Petersen and Yvonne Cloete were baptized by Elder Thacker at Ramah. All members welcome them, and hope they have a happy association with their friends in the Gospel.

With pride we announce the commencement of a local Primary. It is still very much in the initial stages, but never the less, most encouraging.

On Sunday, the 7th of November the services were inspirationally conducted by the Sunday School. All present found the programme most instructional.

LUANSHYA BRANCH

Branch President: Douglas E. Charsley, 130 "E" Avenue, Luanshya Northern Rhodesia.

Reported by Douglas E. Charsley

We all enjoyed the long awaited visit by President and Sister Duncan. A very successful conference was held on November 7th. During the Sunday School session baby Michael James Calteaux was blessed by President Leroy H. Duncan. Brother Douglas Henry Charsley was baptized by his father Douglas E. Charsley and confirmed by President Leroy H. Duncan. President Duncan also ordained brother Willem Adreaan van Deventer a deacon.

An enjoyable braaivleis was held on Friday the 6th November. The children put on an open air concert. The performers first had trouble with the flying ants, then the breeze added zest to the performance of the "Balloon Man" by making the children hold tight to their balloons. The concert had to be concluded indoors, due to a sudden shower. In spite of all these difficulties the children worked like old troupers and the show went on to a splendid conclusion. After the programme Guy Fawkes was celebrated with all its bangs and brilliance.

Sunday, November 21st marked the closing meeting of the year. Almost all the saints will be vacationing down South.

SPRINGS BRANCH

Branch President: H. Dec Hugo, 51

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Spirit of Christmas

By BESSIE WOLVINGTON

Who can explain the sentiment
That Christmas brings each year?
A warmth, a sense of hatred spent
With banishment of fear.

A heartfelt glow of brotherhood
Envelops all mankind;
Men stand alike and understood
Communing mind to mind.

If but the concord of this day
Should not tomorrow cease
Then we would surely find a way
To everlasting peace.

Athlone Avenue, Strubenvale, Springs, Tvl.

Reported by Mavis E. Louw

The only very noticeable activity other than the usual Church meetings this last month has been the feverish clatter of the sewing machines of the Relief Society as they made last minute preparations for their annual bazaar and cake sale which was held outside the Springs Town Hall on Friday the 19th November. The sisters are to be commended for the way they have united their efforts for this annual event. Although not selling everything they still did remarkably well, and feel sure that they will be able to dispose of the articles that are left over, and increase their funds quite considerably.

We wish to extend a hearty welcome to Little Joe Stemmet and Hannes Van Zyl who were baptized by Elder Christensen on the 21st. We hope and pray that they will grow up to become fine Latter-day Saints. We commend their parents for the way they have raised their children in the way of the restored gospel.

We regret to say farewell to Elder Eddy who has fulfilled his calling as a missionary and is preparing for his trip home. We wish him every blessing that he righteously desires.

We are glad to see Sister Elise van der Vyver about again after her sudden illness and hope that she has now fully recovered. We regret to have seen so little of Elder Lichfield since he has arrived in the mission field, as his illness has been keeping him home. We sincerely pray that the Lord may heal his afflictions and so enable him to resume his labours in the service of the Lord.

The Branch Presidency, Officers and Teachers, and all the members of the Springs Branch wish to take this opportunity through the medium of the C.S.M. to wish President and Sister Duncan, their family, members of the Mission Council, all the missionaries, and the members of the Church a very happy Christmas and a most prosperous New Year. May the Gospel bring joy and peace to your homes in abundance.

As a branch we wish to give thanks to our Heavenly Father for the rich blessings that we have received throughout the past year

RAMAH BRANCH

Branch President: Norman G. Muir, 119 Kitchener Avenue, Bez Valley, Johannesburg.

Reported by Tex W. Smith

Blessings are flowing freely to the members of the Ramah Branch. Many good souls have been added to our fold in the Transvaal and we extend a cordial welcome to Sisters, Cloete, Patterson, Blake, Petersen, Taylor, and Botha. Also to brothers, Blake and Futter who were all baptized at Ramah on Sunday 24th October. Sister Nola Matthews rendered a very beautiful song "I have a Testimony" and Elder Grigor, a beautiful piano rendition of "Oh, My Father." This service, conducted by the District Presidency, was inspiring and testimonial of God's Blessings.

M.I.A. held a Halloween Party on October 26th which turned out to be a great success. The M.I.A. is now well into their Summer Programme and by all indications it is being enjoyed by young and old. The Green and Gold Ball is scheduled for the 26th November at the Duncan Hall, and the theme for this year will be "Hawaiian." This organization is also planning an old years night fancy dress party which promises to be a swell affair.

Primary Association conducted the evening services on Sunday the 7th November. Sister Oxley sang a very beautiful song which, along with the programme by the little folks, made the people feel well repaid for coming out that evening. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Primary Award Certificate to young Lorna Elaine Clack, June Brandon and Albert Rafail. Though non-members of the Church, these young people have set a very high ideal and stand as an example to all. We extend hearty congratulations to them.

Ramah has been blessed with many advancements and ordinations to the priesthood. Brothers Ivan Muir and Tex Smith were advanced to the office of Elder in the Melchizedek Priesthood; Brother E. G. Oxley as Deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood; Brothers Chris Louw, J. H. Wagner, E. Rogers, Walter Perry and Don Ninow as Teachers; and Brothers G. A. Phipson and Kenneth Muir, as Priests. The power of God is surely growing in Africa, and great things are expected of those who bear the authority of our Father in Heaven.

We regret to report the illness of Sister

Eddie Muir and young Michael Taylor. We pray for a speedy recovery for these good saints.

The get together party organized by the Relief Society on Saturday the 19th November was a big success. A group of 59 attended a well planned party entertained by the Elder's Quartet, Jean Sutherland, Norman G. Muir, Mr. Fountain, Jennifer Tewson, Kitty Smith and Olive and Hilda Wallace. These people are to be congratulated along with the Relief Society president, Sister Wagner for the success they made of the evening.

DURBAN BRANCH

Branch President: George B. Everton, 8 Roof Garden Mansions, 310 Vause Road, Durban.

Reported by Joyce Wahlburn

The most wonderful news of the month is the fact that we have raised the £1,000 necessary to enable us to start building our Chapel in the new year, and we have £35 start on our next figure. Our hearts are brimming over with gratitude for our success through the grace of our Heavenly Father, and humbly we thank Him. We are proud of the children of our Branch, who are diligently assisting the grownups to raise funds. As usual our Brick selling is doing wonders, and among other efforts, we have had a Jumble sale, and the most successful Cake Sale ever held in our Branch.

On the 20th November Sister Winsome Jakins and her two younger children, Lyle and Janis Leigh, arrived home from Canada. They were officially welcomed back to our Branch at a party held at the Duncan home, on the same evening. This party incidentally, was a triple affair. It was also to bid farewell to Sister Gerda Kotze, who has now joined her husband, brother Gert Kotze in Johannesburg. We envy Ramah membership of these two fine young people, whom we have come to love dearly. And last, but by no means least, we celebrated the 30th wedding anniversary of Elder and Sister Everton.

On our sick list this month, was Sister Nickie Henning, who underwent an operation at the hospital. We are happy to report that she is well on the road to recovery.

On the 18th November our missionary ladies, Sisters Blackburn and Huskinson sailed for home. These sisters will long be remembered amongst the people here.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Elders Quayle and Snow to our Branch, and wish them much happiness in their labours here.

BULAWAYO BRANCH

Branch President: Elder Jerry S. Young, P.O. Box 126, Newbrighton Hotel, Bulawayo.

Reported by W. A. Jubber, Jnr.

We were very sorry to loose Elder Quayle but as Elder Taylor takes his place we welcome him here in Bulawayo with the hope that he will enjoy his stay and labours here.

On the 20th November we had a Church Social at the home of Sister Tarr. There were 20 people in attendance all of whom had a wonderful time.

We were glad to have President and Sister Duncan visit our branch during the last month. While President was here he ordained Brother Robert Tarr and Brother Ronald Robbins to the office of Deacon, and Brother Alfred Frost and Brother William Jubber, Jnr. to the office of teachers.

On Saturday the 30th October we planned a picnic, but due to the bad weather a house party was held instead. After the rain had stopped and the weather looked a little more promising we went out to Motopos Dam and played games and had a Braaivleis. Everyone had a wonderful time.

BELLVILLE BRANCH

Branch President: Nicholas J. Goosen, 57 van Niekerk Street, Kingston Estate, Bellville.

Reported by Jeanette Goosen

We would like to thank the Mowbray Branch for their hospitality and kindness in having shared with us again the recreation hall at Cumorah when the Relief Society bazaar was held on the 6th November.

Upon this occasion members of our branch were proud and thrilled to see at the Bellville stall needlework donated and sent from Salt Lake City by Lavon Halse.

Brother Edwin J. Jakins was 84 years old on the 13th November. We feel that his many friends would like to join with us in assuring him of our very best wishes for the future.

On 21st November when District Conference was held at Cumorah, members of our branch were happy to witness the baptism and confirmation of eight people who have accepted the gospel. Among

these was Sister Mavis De Jager whose little son and daughter were blessed at the same time. We wish to extend a hearty welcome to Sister De Jager and her two children and pray the Lord's blessings to be with them as they become members of our branch here.

MOWBRAY BRANCH

Branch President: Alwin Hubert, 129 Beach Road, Mouille Point, C.P.
Reported by Beatrice E. Smith

The month's activities began with a debate organised by the M.I.A. The subject under discussion was whether "beauty or brains were preferable in a life-companion." The defenders of beauty, Brother Hugh Helm and Sister Beatrice E. Smith, were upheld and supported by most of our young men. However the feelings of the group were entirely on the side of brains — represented by Brother Fred Matthews and Sister Imelda Fourie. Elder Walker was our chairman, and Elder Grismore was the official timer. Certainly, both debaters and audience seemed to be having a hilarious time.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Brother Roelof and Sister Marina van Rooysen who have been bereaved of a brother.

It is good to have Brother Stanford Park back with us after his recent operation. We have also been pleased to welcome Sister Hilda Dyason back after her recent illness.

Among those who have been ill this month are Sister Lilian Heyne, Sister Daniels and Sister Pirie. We trust that they will all soon be recovered from their afflictions.

The holiday season has commenced and we are very glad to have Sister Pat Harvey with us for a short time. We hope that Sister Lorraine Bibb is enjoying her stay in Pretoria.

On the 6th November gaily decorated stalls, selling all types of merchandise, lined the walls of the amusement hall as the Relief Society held their annual bazaar. A turkey dinner was served under the direction of Sister Hubert while games of several kinds and a fish pond held the interest of both young and old. The days events brought in an amount of £200 which is certainly gratifying for the labours spent by all members of the Mowbray Branch.

It is with sorrow that we record the death of Sister Lillian Perrin, who was a faithful member of the Mowbray Branch for many years. We extend our sympathy to her family and pray that they may soon be comforted.

The Special Interest Group of the M.I.A. under the direction of Sister Edith Wiid, have been excelling in the organising of social functions this year. On Saturday, 13th November, they held a supper-party with the Mission President, Sister Duncan and their family, as well as the Cape Missionaries as guests. This was a very enjoyable affair.

The M.I.A. concert on 20th November was a most entertaining event. We are indebted to Brother Clyde Geldenhuys for the amount of work that he put into getting the stage and lighting in trim for the evening. The two plays, "Just Friends," and "Three Words of God," were also very well received and we have to thank all of those who took part.

Sydney Newton is now minus an appendix. It was one of those very sudden affairs—and we are very glad to report that he is now quite recovered, and ready to take up his duties.

Sister Imelda Fourie has been in hospital, and is now making a fine recovery.

District Conference was held on November 21st. The morning was wet and cold outside, but there was a real warmth of fellowship in our midst. We feel that the counsel given us was well-worth following.

In the afternoon there was a baptismal meeting when eight new members were received into the Church. They were Sisters Elizabeth Prins, Gwendoline Smith, Mavis de Jager, Irene Cramer and Maureen Crawford. Brothers James Prins, Neville Cramer and John Poultney were also baptized on this occasion. We welcome all of these members and wish them joy in their membership.

The members of the Mowbray Branch take this opportunity of wishing all Latter-day Saints at the other Branches a very merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years.

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